(a) whether tourism industry has urged Government to allot Government land at concessional rates to build hotels; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism, received a request for allotment of land for hotel construction on a LEASE BASIS. As the subject of allotment of land does not come within the purview of the Ministry of Tourism, this request had been forwarded to the concerned State Governments for suitable necessary action at their end.

Private Investment in Tourism

152. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of Government to encourage private investment in tourism;

(b) the steps being taken to attract greater flow of private investment in tourism; and

(c) the steps being made to create a low cost destination image of India to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Government of India has identified Tourism as a high priority industry for foreign and private investment. Consequently, a Foreign Investment Promotion Board and a Project Approval Board had been set up by the Government in order to clear proposal for foreign investment expeditiously. Further, foreign investment upto 74% & NRI investment upto 100% alongwith foreign collaboration in this pact of technical consultancy services, franchise management fee are under the automatic approval scheme where such proposals are cleared by RBI itself.

(c) The development of the budget accommodation is primarily the responsibility of the State Govts. However, Government of India provides financial assistance for development of infrastructure facilities to the State/Union Territory Governments for setting up of budget accommodation to attract more foreign tourists.

खराब वित्तीय निष्पादन के बावजूद आई.टी.डी.सी. के होटलों का नवीकरण

153. श्री चुन्नी लाल चौधरी: क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान पर्यटन विभाग 74 करोड़ रुपए का एफ.डी. कर चुका है;

(ख) क्या आई.टी.डी.सी. के अंतर्गत आने वाले होटलों का नवीकरण किया जा रहा है; यदि हां, तो उन पर कितना खर्च किये जाने की सम्भावना है;

(ग) क्या पर्यटन विभाग के सभी होटल घाटे में चल रहे हैं; यदि हां, तो उन होटलों के नाम क्या हैं और उनको हुए घाटे का यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि घाटे में चलने के बावजूद उनके नवीकरण और अनुरक्षण के नाम पर करोड़ों रुपये खर्च किए जा रहे हैं; यदि हां तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओमाक अपांग): (क) जी, नहीं। वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम ने 26.70 करोड़ रुपए का फिक्स डिपाजिट किया।

(ख) भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम के वर्ष 1998-99 के संशोधित वार्षिक आयोजना में नवीकरण योजना कार्य के लिए 29 करोड़ रुपए भी शामिल हैं।

(ग) पर्यटन मंत्रालय द्वारा किसी होटल का संचालन नहीं किया जाता है। तथापि, भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम के स्वामित्व वाले 26 होटलों में से 11 होटलों को वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान 6.97 करोड़ रुपए का घाटा हुआ है। भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम के होटल प्रभाग को कुल 27.38 करोड़ रुपए का लाभ हुआ।

(घ) होटल उद्योग सर्वाधिक प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक विश्व बाजार में कार्य निष्पादित करता है, इसलिए इसके उत्पादों को समकालीन तथा प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक रखना अपेक्षित होता है। भारत पर्यटन विकास निगम के वर्ष 1998-99 के संशोधित वार्षिक आयोजना में नवीकरण तथा उन्नयन कार्य के लिए 29.00 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान भी शामिल है। जनवरी, 1999 तक हुआ व्यय 21.40 करोड़ रुपए (अनन्तिम राशि) है।

Development of National Tourist Centre in North Eastern Region

154. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken up by Government

for development of tourism in the North East States;

(b) how long the restriction of entry to foreigners to the North East Region will be allowed to continue; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to set up National Tourist Centres in the States' bordering the North East States like that of Zuko Valley of Manipur bordering Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) To develop tourism in the North East region the Ministry of Tourism had set up a Task Force which has given a number of recommendations which include removal of entry restrictions, upgradation of Guwahati airport, development of inter water transport for tourists, development of certain road segments as National Highways and development of tourism infrastructure in places of major tourist attraction. The Ministry of Tourism also provides central financial assistance to each of the North Eastern States every year.

(b) The Restricted Area Permit/Protected Area Permit System is reviewed from time to time by Government and relaxations are notified.

(c) Setting up of tourist centres is primarily considered and taken up by the State Governments. However, Central Financial Assistance is provided by Ministry of Tourism on receipt of project proposals and availability of funds.

Promotion of tourism in Ninth Plan

155. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to adopt a policy to promote tourism in the country during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, whether any special provisions have been made under the new policy to attract foreign tourists in the country;

(c) the prime objective of the Government in formulating policy to promote tourism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The policy of the Government is to promote and develop tourism as a joint effort of all the agencies concerned including Central Government, State Government and the Private Sector. As a part of the Policy the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments for the development of tourism infrastructure. Incentives are also provided to the Private Sector for attracting investment in the Tourism Sector.

(c) and (d) The prime objective of Government in formulating a policy to promote tourism is to provide a policy direction and to indicate the thrust areas for tourism development in a sustained and appropriate manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 11 o'clock tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at twelve minutes past eleven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wedenesday, the 24th February, 1999.

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